

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04178 020927Z
ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6809

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FOR ANDREWS FROM WORTZEL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. WE WERE MORE THAN DISMAYED TO LEARN (FROM THE MEMCON -- JUST RECEIVED -- OF YOUR MEETING APRIL 19 WITH REP MAGUIRE) THAT YOU SHOWED MAGUIRE COPIES OF OUR CABLES ON THE ALIMI CASE. WE ARE, I ASSURE YOU, AWARE OF THE POLICY OF OPENNESS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. I TRUST, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED AND OF THE PAINFUL HISTORY OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PRIVACY IN ITS INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS -- A SUBJECT ON WHICH EAGLEBURGER FEELS VERY STRONGLY. THIS INCIDENT, AND SPECIFICALLY REP MAGUIRE'S REACTION WHEN HE WAS PERMITTED TO READ WHAT WE THOUGHT WERE PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS, ILLUSTRATES THE POINT ADEQUATELY. IT IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY WHETHER THE CABLES MIGHT BE SHOWN TO REP MAGUIRE OR EVEN INFORMED THAT YOU WERE PREPARED TO DO THIS. IF THINGS HAVE COME TO THE POINT WHERE WE CANNOT
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04178 020927Z

COMMUNICATE PRIVATELY, YOU HAD BEST TELL US, AND WE WILL KNOW WHERE WE STAND AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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